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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year
1 9 5 4.

Medical Officer of Health -
NOEL F. PEARSON, M.R.C.S.,L.R.C.P.,D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector -
W. E. BREEDS, M.S.I.A.,C.S.I.B., M.R.S.I.

Council Offices,
STURMINSTER NEWTON,
Dorset.

1st June 1955.

To the Chairman and Members
Shaftesbury Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1954.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935 and 1951.

Appendix A to the report contains extracts from the findings of the 1951 Census which may be of interest.

The information with regard to climatic conditions on page 2 was kindly provided by Lord Basing.

The report shows that the health of the District has remained satisfactory during the year and that there has been no undue incidence of serious infectious disease.

I am indebted to your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Breeds, for his co-operation and help during the year, and for his assistance in preparing this report, particularly in respect of the sanitary statistics for which he is responsible. I am also indebted to your Waterworks Manager Mr. Burtt, for his co-operation and assistance in compiling the sections of this report dealing with the water supplies of the district, and to my clerk, Miss.P.Goddard, for her efficient services.

I would also like to acknowledge the happy co-operation and assistance I always obtain from your Clerk, Mr.Stace Masey, and the other members of your staff.

Finally, may I thank you, Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant

Lord F. Pearson.

Medical Officer of Health.

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SHAFTESBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR

1 9 5 4.

A. Area - 42,000 acres.
Rateable value - £44,536.
Production of a penny rate - £181.1s.5d.

Vital Statistics.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) - 9,820

LIVE BIRTHS.

	Male.	Female.		Comparative figures (a) Shaftesbury R.D.C.	(b) England & Wales.
Total	93	81	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 17.7	20.5	15.2
Legitimate	88	76			
Illegitimate	5	5			
Illegitimacy Rate per 1,000 live births			= 57.5	57.5	46.0

STILLBIRTHS.

Total	6	3	Rate per 1,000 live & stillbirths = 48.0	48.0	24.0

DEATHS.

Total	58	45	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 10.5	8.4	11.3
Deaths in infants under one year	3	2	Infantile death rate per 1,000 live births = 28.7	28.7	25.5

		1954.	1953.
Deaths from Maternal Causes	-	Nil	Nil
" " Tuberculosis	-	Nil	Nil
" " Cancer of the Lungs	-	3	6
" " Coronary Disease (Angina)	-	18	19
" " Influenza	-	Nil	4
" " Pneumonia	-	3	7
" " Motor vehicle accidents	-	2	1
" " All other accidents	-	Nil	2
" " Suicide	-	Nil	2

Climatic Conditions.

The total rainfall recorded at The Malt House, Gillingham, during the year amounted to 34.99 inches, which is about two inches above the average for this part of Dorset. Rain or snow fell on 201 days during the year, the greatest fall in 24 hours being on July 26th when the amount recorded was .97 inches. There was no occasion during the year when one inch or more of rain was recorded in 24 hours.

The Monthly totals were as follows -

January	1.71	inches.	July	2.85	inches.
February	2.99	"	August	2.75	"
March	3.87	"	September	2.82	"
April	.22	"	October	3.18	"
May	1.94	"	November	6.21	"
June	3.39	"	December	3.06	"

Total for the year.....34.99 inches.

It will be noticed that April was the driest month of the year, which is rather unusual since it is counted as rather a wet month in a normal year, and November the wettest. The year was notable for its lack of sunshine with mainly dull damp weather with temperatures well below the average all through the summer. Only for a day or two in May did the thermometer register 80 degrees shade temperature or over.

B. Personal Health Services in the district.

The personal health services, including the ambulance service, continued to be provided by the County Council and I do not consider any comments are called for in respect of these services.

The Laboratory Services have proved in all respects most helpful and satisfactory.

C. Environmental Health Services.

Sanitary circumstances of the district -

1. SANITARY STAFF.

W.E.Breeds, M.S.I.A.,C.S.I.B.,M.R.S.I. - Senior Sanitary Inspector.

D.F.Anthony, M.S.I.A. - Additional Sanitary Inspector. (appointed 1.12.54.)

Lt.Col.T.Sealy Green, M.R.C.V.S. - Part time for meat inspection only.

Clerical Staff - one clerk (full time).

Although an Additional Sanitary Inspector was appointed toward the end of the year, primarily in connection with the Council's duties in respect of slum clearance, the appointment should materially assist the Council in maintaining a more satisfactory routine sanitary supervision in the district than has been possible in recent years. It will also enable progress to be made in connection with the preparation of the information required in connection with the proposed sewerage schemes for the smaller parishes.

2. WATER SUPPLY.

(a) Quantity. No serious shortages of water came to my notice during the year.

(b) Quality. The bacteriological and chemical quality of all the principal supplies remained satisfactory during the year. Because of the unsatisfactory bacteriological condition of the Bourton Supply, arrangements were made for drip feed chlorination of this Supply until such time as the Supply can be abandoned and a new main supply provided for this parish.

Bacteriological examination of water supplies. The following table gives particulars of the number of samples of water taken (before chlorination) for bacteriological examination, and the results obtained shown in accordance with Ministry of Health classification -

Source of Sample.	No. taken.	Results.
Reservoir for Gillingham at Mere	8	All satisfactory.
Boyne Hollow	14	12 satisfactory. 2 unsatisfactory.
Motcombe	19	13 satisfactory. 5 unsatisfactory. 1 suspect.
Fontmell Magna Private Supply	12	9 satisfactory. 3 unsatisfactory.
Other Supplies	31	16 satisfactory. 15 unsatisfactory.

New works carried out during the year. A considerable amount of work has been carried out on the Council's Southern Scheme, namely works in connection with the proposed Stubhampton source. The work that has been carried out comprises the construction of the 400,000 gallon reservoir at Hill Farm, Iwerne Minster (work practically completed); the construction of a new 9" main from the reservoir site at Iwerne Hill across country in as straight a line as possible to the United States Air Base at Guys Marsh continuing in 6" as far as the junction of Coles Lane and the Shaftesbury/Sturminster Newton Road.

This new main has, at several points, been connected at our existing mains to aid distribution, but no water has been taken from the reservoir at Iwerne Hill. A short length of 4" main has been laid along Green Lane, Stour Row, to connect the existing main at Margaret Marsh to the existing main at Kitt Hill. Our existing mains at East Orchard have been extended by laying a 4" main to the boundary of our Rural District where a bulk supply has been made available to the Blandford Rural District Council at Farrington Bridge and they (Blandford R.D.C.) have extended the main into their district as far as Gallows Corner. The pumphouse at Stubhampton is well advanced and will be ready to receive pumping plant and equipment as soon as this is received.

Joint Works at Mere. Considerable progress in the development of the new works at Mere has been made, the pumping station has been built, a surface tank constructed, new mains for connecting from the new pumps to the existing rising mains laid and part of the machinery delivered. It is anticipated that these works will be completed and working by June 1955.

New Connections during the year.

(1) Domestic Supplies	23
(2) Agricultural Supplies	28
(3) Supplies for other purposes	2

These supplies have been made available in the parishes stated overleaf.

Parish.	Domestic Supply.	Agricultural.	Other Purposes.
Ashmore	1		
Bourton	1		
Cann		1	
Compton Abbas		1	
East Orchard	1	1	
East Stour	2	2	
Fontmell Magna	1	1	
Gillingham	7	2	2
Iwerne Minster	2	1	
Kington Magna		2	
Melbury Abbas	2		
Motcombe		1	
Stour Provost	3	15	
Sutton Waldron	1	1	
Todber	1		
West Stour	1		

Distribution. It is regretted that no up to date information (asked for by the Ministry) is available with regard to the number of houses (and population) in each parish provided with a main supply of water, or by outside standpipes, well, or spring supplies.

3. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Post-war Sewerage Schemes.

Gillingham. Following the holding of a Ministerial Local Public Inquiry, approval was given to the comprehensive Sewerage Scheme for the built up area for the parish of Gillingham. The Scheme for this was in the course of preparation at the end of the year.

Other Parishes. No further progress was made during the year in connection with Sewerage Schemes (still urgently required) in other parishes in the district.

Council House Septic Tanks. Although there has been some improvement in the maintenance of Council house septic tanks and small sewerage purification schemes, the position cannot yet be said to be satisfactory. The maintenance of these small schemes in a satisfactory condition is by no means an easy matter and I still hope that the Council will further consider the advantages of having all the sewerage schemes, for which they are responsible, maintained by one staff under the jurisdiction of the Public Health Committee rather than having the responsibility for this work shared, as at the present time, by three different Committees of the Council.

4. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

(a) House Refuse and Salvage. The service for the collection of house refuse and salvage has remained the same as in the preceding years. A weekly collection is made in Gillingham and a monthly collection throughout the remainder of the district.

The quantity of salvage collected during the year amounted to 84 tons. 1 cwt. 3 qrs. compared with 54 tons. 5 cwts. 3 qrs. in the preceding year. The income received from the sale of the salvage amounted to £532.2s.5d compared with £305.18s.5d. in the preceding year.

(b) Cesspool Emptying. No cesspool emptying is undertaken by the Council.

5. RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION.

Until adequate parish sewerage schemes can be provided, a gross amount of pollution of streams and ditches in the district cannot be avoided. This type of pollution is present in many parishes in the district. Progress toward the provision of adequate sewerage schemes in several parishes is urgently required.

6. SHOPS ACTS.

No. of inspections carried out	26
No. of defects found	4
No. of notices served (informal)	4
No. of notices complied with	4

7. FACTORIES ACT 1937.

	No. of premises on register.	Inspections.	Written Notices.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	15	9	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	34	26	3
TOTAL -	49	35	3

	No. of cases in which defects were - Found.	Remedied.	Referred by H.M.Inspector.
Want of cleanliness	1	1	-
Sanitary Conveniences -			
Unsuitable or defective	2	1	1
Not separate for sexes	1	-	1
TOTAL	4	2	2

No. of outworkers = 32.

Once again it will be noted that inspection of all the factories on the register was not carried out during the year.

8. SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Observations were carried out in connection with complaints at Bourton, but no further action was called for.

9. SWIMMING BATHS.

There is no swimming bath to which the public have access in the district.

10. MOVEABLE DWELLINGS & CAMPING SITES.

There are no camping sites in the district. Licences in connection with the occupation of five moveable dwellings were renewed during the year.

11. VERMINOUS PREMISES.

Disinfection of one dwelling infested with fleas was carried out during the year. D.D.T. solution was the method employed.

12. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS.

The duties of the Council under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 are carried out in the district by the North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee whose activities cover the five districts in North Dorset and the Beaminster Rural District. The number of inspections carried out were 505, treatment being necessary in 360 instances. Inspections on farms totalled 55. 47 cases of infestation were referred to the Joint Committee by the Sanitary Inspector.

A particular factory at Gillingham has proved a considerable problem in respect of rat infestation and concentrated efforts are made to keep the infestation there at a minimum.

13. RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT 1951.

No premises in the district are registered or licensed under this Act.

14. PET ANIMALS ACT 1951.

No premises in the district are licensed under this Act.

15. SCHOOLS (INCLUDING SCHOOL CANTEENS).

Inspection of the school canteens in the district were carried out during the year and were found to be satisfactory.

16. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS 1948 & 1951.

No action was required to be taken during the year under these Acts with regard to the removal of persons in need of care and attention and living in insanitary conditions.

17. HOUSING.

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year -

No. of dwelling houses inspected during the year	178
No. of inspections made	265
No. of informal notices served	82
No. of informal notices complied with	53
No. of statutory notices served	22
No. of statutory notices complied with	21
No. of houses reported under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936	9
Action taken by the local authority in respect of such houses -	
(a) Demolition Orders made	4
(b) Undertakings accepted for -	
(i) Closure	4
(ii) Reconditioning	1

Overcrowding.

No. of cases of 'statutory' overcrowding found and reported to Local Authority	1
No. of cases of overcrowding abated	1
Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil

Total No. of houses in the district 3,094

Houses Let in Lodgings.

No. of houses known to be let in lodgings Nil

Rural Housing Survey.

Classification.	No. of inspections during 1954. Prelim.	Detailed.	No. of inspections before 1954. Prelim.	Detailed.
Cat. 1. Satisfactory	-	3	216	4
" 2. Requiring minor repairs	-	5	501	22
" 3. Requiring minor repairs, alterations or improvement	1	13	633	80
" 4. Appropriate for re-conditioning	24	6	380	117
" 5. Unfit for human habitation and beyond repair at reasonable cost	19	17	388	186

Although the Council has, year by year, taken action in respect of property unfit for human habitation, the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954 called for more vigorous action in this respect. The Additional Sanitary Inspector appointed primarily to assist in this work did not take up his appointment until the end of the year and, therefore, the results of the appointment are not reflected in the above-mentioned figures.

Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954.

No. of applications received for certificates of disrepair	Nil
No. of certificates issued	Nil

The present indications are that property owners are not taking the opportunity presented by this Act to increase the rents of their property and, incidentally, carrying out the essential repairs to enable them to do so.

The amendment of Section 9 of the Housing Act 1936 by the above-mentioned Act, has withdrawn the power of a Local Authority to enforce necessary repairs in any but the worst property.

It follows that unless the landlord is given greater inducement to effect repairs voluntarily, or a Local Authority can again have power to see that property is made 'in all respects fit', a further deterioration of existing property is to be anticipated until its condition becomes so bad that a Local Authority can enforce repairs or demolition.

Requisitioned Premises etc.

No houses were held under requisition at the end of the year. No houses on which demolition or closing orders had been made were being occupied under licence at the end of theyear.

Provision of new houses and re-housing.

No. of houses provided by the local authority -

	Temporary Prefab.	Swedish Timber.	Traditional Type.	Other.
During 1954	-	-	38	-
Post-war	-	8	381	44
Pre-war	-	-	139	-

Total No. of families re-housed during 1954 96

It will be noted that 38 new Council houses were completed and 96 families were re-housed during the year compared with 82 and 124 respectively during the preceding year. The general

standard of housing continues to improve throughout the district. Nevertheless, further houses are still required, not only in respect of present applicants, but also to enable realistic slum clearance to be carried out. There is no indication that private enterprise will make these houses available in the district, nor is the availability of improvement grants and the ready facilities available for the borrowing of money for house purchase and building likely to materially reduce the call on the Council to provide additional Council houses, particularly in relation to those displaced by slum clearance.

Improvement Grants (Housing Act 1949 and Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954).

No. of applications received during the year	28
No. granted	22
No. refused	Nil
No. pending	6

An increasing number of owners (28 as against 6 during the preceding year) have taken advantage of the provision of grants under the Housing Act 1949 for the improvement of property. The majority of the applicants for grants are owner-occupiers who are not applicants for Council house accommodation.

Housing Applicants.

At the end of the year 151 residents within the district were applicants for a Council house. There were 76 applicants resident outside the district.

18. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

1. Milk.

Food & Drugs (Milk & Dairies) Act 1944.

No. of 'dealers' subject to registration by the District Council under regulation 14 of the Milk (Special Designations)(Raw Milk) Regulations 1949	4
No. of 'dealers' licensed under regulation 14 of the Milk (Special Designations)(Pasteurised and Sterilized) Milk) Regulations 1949	2
No. of 'dairies' in the district registered under regulation 8 of the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949	2
No. of 'distributors' registered under regulation 8 of the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949	2

Samples.

No. of samples of milk taken and submitted for examination during the year (by arrangement with the Dorset County Council) -

Tuberculin Tested	18
Accredited	2
Pasteurised	92
Other	2

Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 - Regulation 20.

No action was called for or taken during the year.

2. Other Food Premises.

No. of premises in the district subject to Section 13 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938		55
No. being -	restaurant kitchens	4
	hotel kitchens	5
	food factories	5
No. of such premises inspected		11
No. inspected being -	restaurant kitchens	4
	hotel kitchens	2
	food factories	5
No. of premises in the district subject to registration under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938		43
No. of such premises registered in respect of -		
(a) Ice-cream	33	
(b) Sausages & prepared meats	10	
No. of premises inspected during the year		43
No. of samples of ice-cream taken and submitted for Methylene Blue Test		8

Grade 1	-	6
" 2	-	1
" 3	-	0
" 4	-	1

It will be noted that only 11 out of the 55 premises concerned with the preparation or handling of food for sale, were inspected during the year. With the assistance of an additional Sanitary Inspector available it is hoped that further routine supervision of such premises will be obtained.

Food Inspection.

Slaughterhouses. Following the cessation of meat rationing in July, one new slaughterhouse was built and licensed in the district in addition to the three existing licensed slaughterhouses at the three bacon factories.

Food Condemned (Other than at Slaughterhouses).

Butchers Shops and Other Premises.

Quantities condemned -

Tinned	Luncheon Meat	4 lbs.
"	Corned Beef	66 "
"	Cooked Ham	46 "
"	Ox Tongue	6 "
		122 lbs.
	Veal	3 lbs.
	Pork	134 "
	Beef	132 "
		269 lbs.

Total - 3 cwts. 1 qr. 27 lbs.

Meat Inspection.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Pigs.	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.
Number killed	106683	-	1401	700
Number inspected	30440	-	1401	700
All diseases except Tuberculosis.				
Whole carcase condemned	22	-	2	1
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	2	244
Percentage of the number killed affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	.02	-	.28	35.0
Tuberculosis only.				
Whole carcase condemned	298	-	-	-
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	6453	-	-	-
Percentage of the number killed affected with Tuberculosis	6.32	-	-	-

19. INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

No. of investigations carried out 1
No. of disinfections carried out 1

20. SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT.

Total No. of inspections (under all headings) 2,160
Total No. of informal notices served 89
Total No. of informal notices complied with 60
Total No. of statutory notices served 29
Total No. of statutory notices complied with 28
No. of prosecutions 1

D. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

Other than Tuberculosis -

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.
Whooping Cough	11
Scarlet Fever	4
Erysipelas	1
Acute Primary Pneumonia	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1

Tuberculosis -

New Cases Notified.		Deaths.	
Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.	Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.
4	-	-	1

Food Poisoning.

Two outbreaks of suspected food poisoning occurred during the year. The first was a family outbreak in which the number of ascertained cases were two. The suspected food was an ox tongue cooked and pressed at home. The second outbreak occurred amongst children at a school. Twenty-seven children were affected, the suspected cause of the outbreak was tinned stewed steak prepared and served from a central school canteen.

NOEL F. PEARSON.

Medical Officer of Health.

APPENDIX A - EXTRACTS FROM RESULTS OF THE CENSUS 1951.

POPULATION.

	Total.	Increase + or Decrease - 1931 - 1951.	Percentage. Total.	Percentage. Natural.	Percentage. Balance.	Remarks.	Per cent Population 70 years or over.
Shaftesbury Borough	3,303	+484	+17.2	+0.4	+16.8	+484 added by boundary changes.	10.2
Sherborne U.D.	5,987	-555	-8.5	+1.0	-9.5	Decrease due to census in 1951 taking place during school holidays.	9.4
Shaftesbury R.D.	9,099	+460	+5.3	+2.5	+2.8	-452 loss due to boundary changes.	8.8
Sturminster R.D.	9,304	+816	+9.6	+1.6	+8.0	+562 added by boundary changes.	9.9
Sherborne R.D.	6,119	+736	+13.7	+7.8	+5.9	+322 added by boundary changes.	7.3
DORSET	291,323	+51,971	+21.7	+6.2	+15.5		8.6

HOUSING.

	Persons per room.	Piped water into house. Per cent having none or sharing.	Cooking stove. Per cent having none or sharing.	Kitchen sink. Per cent having none or sharing.	Water Closet. Per cent having none or sharing.	Fixed Bath. Per cent having none or sharing.	Per cent having all five facilities.
Shaftesbury Borough	0.64	18	5	14	13	39	57
Sherborne U.D.	0.65	13	2	9	11	40	57
Shaftesbury R.D.	0.65	20	6	19	39	48	45
Sturminster R.D.	0.62	18	6	15	34	41	52
Sherborne R.D.	0.65	24	4	20	55	55	38
DORSET COUNTY	0.67	22	7	17	27	41	54
ENGLAND & WALES		17	7	13	21	45	